

Your
Seattle
City Light

Memorandum



AXELROD
901

DATE : January 28, 1985
TO : W. R. Sickler
FROM : K. H. Hunich
SUBJECT : Detecting PCB Contamination In Network Transformers
Sent To The Transformer Repair Shop

JAN 29 1985

At the present time, network transformers are being tested in service to determine possible PCB contamination. This testing will continue over the next three years. All units will be tagged after testing and labeled to indicate whether the mineral oil contains under 50 ppm "not contaminated," between 50 and 500 ppm "PCB contaminated," or over 500 ppm "PCB".

Some transformers that are PCB contaminated have already been identified, including some exceeding 500 ppm. These transformers will be flushed in accordance with the federal regulations and refilled with certified pure oil.

I understand that network transformers currently brought to the South Service Center for repairs are not routinely tested for PCB contamination. It appears that until such time as all network transformers are tested, units drained and refilled at the shop could result in spreading contamination. To avoid this contamination, I suggest that PCB testing take place before network transformers are drained at the shop.

We are obtaining a contract for flushing and refilling transformers that are classified as PCB or PCB contaminated. Because your shop needs the transformers drained before they can work on them, it seems that it would be an opportune time to also test them first for PCB content.

If contamination is found, the transformer should be properly labeled and the contamination of new oil and other equipment prevented. Such testing will help in our program of eliminating all PCB from the network and will also facilitate the proper and safe disposal of this hazardous material.

If you have any questions regarding this, please call Gerd Jerochim or Dan Haw. Environmental Affairs has indicated that they are available to assist in establishing proper storage and disposal procedures.

DH:dh

cc: Hunich
Jerochim
Axelrod
Haw